

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6566
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSIN BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5489

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECIN, COMECON
SUBJECT: COMMUNIQUE ON MEETING OF CEMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SUMMARY: MOST INTERESTING POINTS IN COMMUNIQUE OF RECENT
MEETING OF CEMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ARE:

-- THE CREATION OF A FIRM UNDER BULGARIAN MANAGEMENT TO
PROMOTE CEMA COORDINATION IN WATER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
AN AREA IN WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE EXHIBITED A STRONG
INTEREST,
-- A SIMILAR EFFORT AT COORDINATION IN FIELD OF NUMERICALLY-
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CONTROLLED MACHINE TOOLS,

-- A DISCUSSION OF ENHANCING THE ROLE OF THE TRANSFERABLE
RUBLE, WHERE DISAGREEMENT MAY EXIST AMONG CEMA MEMBER-
COUNTRIES ON ITS ROLE (REPORTED SEPTTEL),

- AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CONSUMER GOODS

ENTERING INTRA-CEMA TRADE WITH A PUZZLING REFERENCE TO
"INTERNAL TRADE,"

-- THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF CLOSER COOPERATION WITH VIETNAM,
LAOS AND ANGOLA WHICH INDICATES SPECIAL STATUS FOR THESE
STATES (VIETNAM HAS IN FACT APPLIED TO JOIN IBEC).

-- REFERENCE TO AGREEMENT ON FURTHER STEPS IN CEMA-EC
CONTACTS AND NEGOTIATIONS WHICH FORESHADOWED CEMA REPLY TO EC
RESPONSE TO ORIGINAL CEMA PROPOSAL,

-- FAILURE TO MENTION WORK ON LONG-TERM COOPERATION
PROGRAMS, ON WHICH A REPORT IS DUE TO BE PRESENTED AT 31ST
COUNCIL SESSION, MAY BE THE RESULT OF REPORTED DIFFICULTY
BEING EXPERIENCED IN DRAWING THEM UP. (REPORTED SEPTEL)
END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING STRIKE US AS MOST INTERESTING POINTS IN
COMMUNIQUE OF 80TH MEETING OF CEMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
WHICH WAS HELD IN MOSCOW APRIL 12-14 (ASSUME DEPT HAS FULL
TEXT).

2. THE CREATION OF "INTERVODOOCHESTKA" TO PROMOTE CEMA
COOPERATION IN WATER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MAY WELL HAVE BEEN
A SOVIET INITIATIVE. SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED A
STRONG INTEREST IN THIS AREA TO GERMAN COMPANIES, AS WELL
AS TO OURSELVES IN CONNECTION WITH USCO SHOW "CLEAN
WATER." NEW FIRM MAY REPRESENT SOVIET EFFORT TO COORDINATE
RESEARCH AND TO TAP POOL OF TECHNOLOGY OF EASTERN EUROPEAN
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COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW WHY BULGARIANS WERE
CHOSEN TO MANAGE FIRM, THEY ARE PROBABLY THE EAST EUROPEANS
MOST AMENABLE TO SOVIET INFLUENCE.

3. SIMILARLY THE SOVIETS ARE INTERESTED IN COORDINATING
EAST EUROPEAN EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF NUMERICALLY-CONTROLLED
MACHINE TOOLS. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAD ALREADY ADDRESSED
THIS QUESTION WITH REGARD TO METAL-CUTTING MACHINERY AT ITS
MEETING LAST OCTOBER (76 MOSCOW 16314).

4. THE MOST CONFUSING PART OF COMMUNIQUE IS PART THAT REFERS
TO "EXCHANGE OF CONSUMER GOODS AMONG CEMA MEMBER COUNTRIES
THROUGH INTERNAL TRADE." WHILE SOVIETS AND PRESUMABLY OTHER
MEMBER-COUNTRIES WOULD WELCOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY
OF CONSUMER GOODS ENTERING INTO INTRA-CEMA TRADE, REFERENCE
TO DOING SO THROUGH "INTERNAL TRADE" IS PUZZLING.

5. COMMUNIQUE REFERENCE TO INCREASED ATTENTION TO COOPERATION
WITH VIETNAM, LAOS AND ANGOLA MAY INDICATE THAT SOVIETS FEEL

THE TIME IS RIPE TO INCREASE THE MULTILATERAL TIES OF THESE COUNTRIES TO THE "SOCIALIST CAMP." OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN THIS CONNECTION IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE TASS REPORT ON THE IBEC BOARD MEETING THAT VIETNAM HAS FORMALLY APPLIED TO JOIN IBEC. MENTION OF GUYANA'S APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATION STATUS WITH CEMA, BUT WITHOUT ANY INDICATION OF THE ATTITUDE OF MEMBER-COUNTRIES, MAY INDICATE SOME HESITATION ABOUT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS AT THIS TIME.

6. MENTION OF AGREEMENT ON FURTHER STEPS ON CONTACTS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INDICATED CEMA APPROVAL OF OLSZWESKI LETTER WHICH HAS NOW BEEN TRANSMITTED TO EC (EC BRUSS 3950). WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHETHER IT TOOK CEMA 5 MONTHS TO ARRIVE AT A RESPONSE OR WHETHER THE LONG DELAY BY EC IN RESPONDING TO ORIGINAL CEMA PROPOSAL PROMPTED CEMA TO ACT IN EQUALLY DELIBERATE MANNER. TOON

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